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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 1, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D. WEINER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
Around Your seat of judgment, Lord God, stand our former colleagues. They are brothers and sisters to us and the Founders of this Nation. God-fearing persons, they were called by You to this place and were called "Honorable" during life here because of their public commitment to uphold the Constitution and serve the people of this Nation.

They lay the foundation upon which we build. Their heritage defines our work today. We, and the whole Nation, are indebted to their contributions that have outlived them. Now they share in the resurrected life of Your glory.

We pray that all our former Members who have completed the course, kept the faith, now receive the reward of the just.

As they believed in You and placed their trust in You to help them solve the problems and concerns of the past, so we now ask You to help us fulfill all their hopes and dreams for this Nation today and in the future.

Blessed are You, Lord God, in Your angels and in Your saints now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1808. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in

Augusta, Georgia, as the "Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

H.R. 2779. An act to recognize the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

REAL SOLUTIONS FOR IRAN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago, President Kennedy compelled the Soviet Union to remove offensive missiles from Cuba without a shot being fired. The Soviet missiles represented a true threat, but President Kennedy knew that the consequences of war were severe and that there was a viable option short of direct military confrontation.

The Iranian threat, while certainly a continuing and growing concern, cannot be compared to the danger of Soviet efforts during the Cold War. The President's perceived rush toward the possibility of military conflict with Iran highlights the executive's inability to find real solutions to preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons or supplying weapons to our adversaries in Iraq. We must exhaust every economic and diplomatic opportunity before even considering a military response.

This administration has reduced our leverage around the world, but there is still time to build an international consensus around this issue. Congress has a constitutional responsibility in this debate. I hope Members will urge the President to take the moral high ground and deal with Iran through

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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international pressure, not unilateral action.

KEEP OUR CAMPUSES SAFE

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week Education Secretary Spellings released guidelines to clarify the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, but the current law does not go far enough to keep our campuses safe. Schools need to be able to talk with parents when they think a student is at risk for violence without fear that they are going to be sued. That is why I introduced H.R. 2220, the Mental Health Security for Families and Education, or the Mental Health SAFE Act, to allow universities to notify parents if a student is at risk of suicide or homicide or assault, while holding schools harmless if they act in good faith. Schools should be focused on the safety of students, not fear of being sued if they do take action or sued if they don't take action. We need a law to protect students and parents.

It is too late for Virginia Tech; it is too late for the many students who commit suicide or homicidal acts each year. It is not too late for other campuses. I ask my colleagues to please cosponsor the Mental Health SAFE Act. Let's work together to save lives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS CONGRESS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight. This administration has accused Congress of being a "failure," and that is simply not true. I think the President has this Congress confused with last year's "Do-Nothing Congress." This Congress has successfully passed numerous pieces of legislation that have been supported by the majority of the American people and the President has signed into law.

We passed, for example, H.R. 1, to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations and to provide greater protection for first responders and security for our country. We have raised the minimum wage, improved our economic competitiveness, and enacted the College Cost Reduction Act. I am particularly proud of this law, which increases funding for Federal Pell Grants by more than \$11 billion and will make college more affordable for low-income students.

And then of course there is SCHIP. This Congress has bent over backwards to address concerns about the legislation, and yet this administration continues to oppose health care for our Nation's most vulnerable children. I am proud to go home this weekend and tell my constituents about what this Congress has done.

A SAFER WORKPLACE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao recently announced that the rate of workplace injuries and illnesses declined in 2006. This marked the fourth consecutive year America has seen a decrease in injuries.

The decline in injury and illness comes as we continue to see an increase in the number of American workers. Even with an increase in the number of opportunities for potential accidents, we have seen a decline.

I want to commend the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, in particular my long-time friend and fellow South Carolinian, OSHA Director Ed Foulke, for the great strides they have made in ensuring that American employers and employees can do their jobs safely.

We must remain vigilant to potential workplace dangers. A safe and healthy workplace not only protects America's hardworking men and women; it also supports our strong and growing economy by creating more efficient and productive industries.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

COMMENDING DANIEL JACOB WOODHEAD

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an outstanding student athlete, Daniel Jacob Woodhead, senior tailback for the Chadron State College Eagles, who shattered the NCAA all-division record for career rushing yards on October 6, 2007. On that day, Danny carried the ball 34 times for 208 yards, bringing his career rushing total to 7,441 yards, and has added 114 yards since.

He also holds the NCAA all-division record for most rushing yards in a season at 2,756 in 2006 and has 19 games in which he gained 200 yards rushing or more, a record in itself.

Danny is a First Team Academic All-American, a consensus All-American, and recipient of the Harlon Hill Trophy, awarded to the outstanding player of the year in NCAA Division II football.

I commend Daniel Jacob Woodhead who, through his outstanding achievements of distinction, has brought great honor to himself, his family, his coaches and teammates, Eagles fans, Chadron State College, and the State of Nebraska.

LOW WATER LEVELS IN THE GREAT LAKES

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to a very serious problem that is affecting our magnificent Great Lakes, and that is historic low lake levels.

Just as we are seeing low lake and water levels around other parts of the country, the Great Lakes, which, remember, comprise actually one-fifth or fully 20 percent of the fresh water supply of the entire world, are losing water at alarming rates. And these low lake levels are having a significantly negative impact on millions that live in the Great Lakes Basin who make their living on the lakes or simply use them to recreate on.

For example, millions of recreational boaters are running aground or they can't keep their boats in marinas. Lake freighters are not being able to load up the way that they need to because the low lake levels are causing untold millions of dollars of losses for the shipping industry, and the very fragile environmental habitats of many species of fish and waterfowl and other species have been negatively impacted as well.

Mr. Speaker, much of what is happening to the Great Lakes can be attributed certainly to weather changes. We have had some warmer winters. Therefore, you have less ice cover so evaporation is occurring all year long.

As this Congress considers funding for other national environmental treasures, let us remember our magnificent Great Lakes.

RETAIN FUNDING FOR THE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

(Mrs. MUSGRAVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, because it is taking longer than it should to complete the people's business and the Agriculture appropriations bill is getting further delayed by political wrangling, I am compelled to petition Speaker PELOSI to focus on a Federal food bank program that is very important to my Colorado district.

I have asked the Speaker to retain funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. This program was established in the 1960s and effectively and efficiently provides low-income elderly individuals and pregnant women basic food assistance. However, in recent years, Presidents Clinton and Bush have proposed the elimination of this program, despite the objections of many, including me.

The importance of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program funding was made clear to me during the August work period when I visited the Weld County Food Bank. This food bank is one of seven in Colorado that utilizes this funding, and it serves nearly 20,000 residents in my district.

This food bank program and the Agriculture appropriations bill are vital to Colorado. Please retain funding for